

India Tea scripts history; highest ever production and exports of all time recorded at 1325.05 million kgs and 256.57 million kgs respectively

Kolkata, May 8: The Indian tea industry has achieved a historic feat during the financial year 2017-18 as it has recorded the highest ever production as well as export figures. The total tea production was 1325.05 million kgs, an increase of 74.56 million kgs (5.96%) as compared to 2016-17. Similarly, the total quantity of tea exported during the financial year 2017-18 stood at 256.57 million kgs, while the foreign exchange realized from exports of Indian tea was US\$ 785.92 million.

The tea industry's performance on the export front was commendable as the quantity of tea exports increased by 28.94 million kgs (12.71%) during 2017-18 as compared to the corresponding period last year, while the revenue earned from exports saw a rise of US\$ 95.19 million (13.78%). In rupee terms, the total value of the exports was pegged at Rs. 5064.88 crores during 2017-18. The value realisation increased by Rs. 432.38 crores (9.33%).

The growth in exports was majorly driven by the following countries: Egypt (increased by 7.49 million kgs), Iran (increased by 6.95 million kgs), Pakistan (increased by 4.96 million kgs), China (increased by 2.91 million kgs) and Russia (increased by 2.89 million kgs).

The earlier record for the highest quantity of tea exports was during the financial year 1976-77 when the total quantity exported was 242.42 million kgs.

Given below is an overview of the tea exports during FY2017-18:

	Quantity (Million Kgs)		Value (Rs. Crores)		Value (Million US\$)	
	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17
Total Exports	256.57	227.63	5064.88	4632.50	785.92	690.73
Increase	28.94		432.38		95.19	
Increase in percentage	12.71		9.33		13.78	

The following countries have shown significant increase in quantity of exports during 2017-18 as compared to the corresponding period last year:

Country	Quantity exported during 2017-18 (Million Kgs)	Quantity exported during 2016-17 (Million Kgs)	Increase (Million Kgs)	Increase in percentage
Egypt (ARE)	12.69	5.20	7.49	144.04
Iran	31.19	24.24	6.95	28.67
Pakistan	16.09	11.13	4.96	44.56
China	9.00	6.09	2.91	47.78
Russia	48.10	45.21	2.89	6.39

The trend towards a new record in exports was evident in 2017 (January-December) itself as the total quantity of exports stood at 251.91 million kgs, an increase of 29.46 million kgs (13.24%) over 2016, with value realisation at US\$ 766.06 million, rising by US\$ 100.90 million (15.17%).

The export data during the calendar year 2017 vis-à-vis 2016 is detailed below:

	Quantity (Million Kgs)		Value (Rs. Crores)		Value (Million US\$)	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Total Exports	251.91	222.45	4987.59	4468.11	766.06	665.16
Increase	29.46		519.48		100.90	
Increase in percentage	13.24		11.63		15.17	

The previous highest export quantity for the calendar year was in 1981 when the total tea exports had reached 241.25 million kgs.